



# PARKnerships ANNUAL REPORT FY2019

Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

**PARKnerships**  
Building Community in Alexandria



# PARKNERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

## Connect the Community

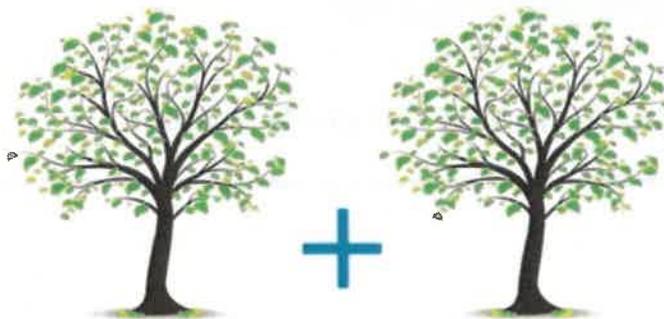
The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) PARKnerships Program, continues to connect the community through collaboration with volunteers, community organizations, and sponsors. This year, PARKnerships partnered with over 20 community groups and organizations for facility improvements and innovative youth programming, in addition to sustaining many partnerships already in full swing from prior fiscal years.

Partnering with the community allows residents and local businesses to participate in planning and decision-making processes so RPCA can attain its mission of enriching the City of Alexandria by creating meaningful experiences through public space, cultural activities, and programming.



## 2020 Community Matching Fund

The Community Matching Fund leverages collaborative community partnership opportunities with the City that expand and improve the quality of recreation, park, and cultural experiences. The Fund provides matching 1:1 dollars (up to \$25,000 of City funds) for groups that propose fundraising for park and recreation facility improvement projects. The Fund fosters public/private partnerships and cultivates innovative ways for residents to have a greater stake in improving the park and recreation facilities that they use.



In FY19 The City awarded funds to four projects:

Congratulations to our Community Matching Fund Award Winners!

**1. Four Mile Run Park Kayak Launch**

**Applicant:** Four Mile Run Park Conservatory Foundation

**Project Description:** This project will hire an engineering firm to design a kayak launch at the end of Commonwealth Avenue in Four Mile Run Park. The design will provide cost estimates to plan for future construction. The FMR Park Conservatory Foundation will seek funding opportunities for construction following design completion. Consistent with the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan, near stream amenities recommendations.

**Total Project Cost:** \$32,000

**Proposed City Contribution:** \$16,000

**2. Woodbine Tot Lot Renovation**

**Applicant:** Make a Wish Foundation

**Project Description:** This project will renovate Woodbine Tot Lot, per the “wish” of a child in the neighborhood. Make a wish will hire a designer to work with the community and a contractor to renovate the playground, with Park Planning’s oversight. The playground design will take into consideration the draft Pocket Park plan.

**Total Project Cost:** \$80,000

**Proposed City Contribution:** \$25,000 Tot Lot Renovation

**3. Holmes Run Community Garden Improvements**

**Applicant:** Holmes Run Community Gardeners

**Project Description:** Add mulch and compost bins, fencing, landscaping, and storage to the Holmes Run Community Garden.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15,000

**Proposed City Contribution:** \$7,500

**4. Parkour Park in Ewald Park**

**Applicant:** Jonas Neihardt

**Project Description:** Build a Parkour Space in Ewald Park, as approved in the Ewald Park Plan Amendment in November 2018.

**Total Project Cost:** \$80,000

**Proposed City Contribution:** \$25,000

## Volunteers

It's hard to attach a value to the effort of our volunteers. Their contributions to the City of Alexandria are remarkable. RPCA can't show enough gratitude to our volunteers for their time, labor, and commitment. All of the volunteers give from the heart and devote their service, knowledge, and effort to ensure all neighbors and visitors have a place to engage, socialize, and have fun.



Volunteer projects include:

- Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria - Construction of Dale Street Gardens
- Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria - Construction and planting at 3550 Commonwealth Avenue
- Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria - "Facelift" to Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center
- HITT - Improvements to Dale Street Gardens and Chinquapin Gardens
- United Way Stencil Project - Painting bi-lingual instructions for exercise routines on the pathway at 3500 Commonwealth Avenue
- Volunteer Alexandria - Spring to Action - Paint park fencing and clean-up at Ewald Park
- Girl Scout Troop 4193, Vegetative Border, Hoofs Run Dog Exercise Area
- Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation - Monthly kayak clean-ups in Four Mile Run Park

<sup>1</sup>

Total Volunteers	Hours Invested	Estimated Work Value
• 1,117	• 18,130.23	• \$536,654.90

<sup>1</sup> The latest figure from the 2018 Bureau of Labor Statistics data, indexed by Independent Sector, equates one hour of volunteer time in Virginia to be equal to \$27.50 with a 2.8% increase from 2017.

## Adopt-a-Bench Highlights

Adopt-a-Bench had another successful year resulting in 12 adopted benches. Many residents decided to commemorate a loved one by placing a plaque on an existing bench within an Alexandria park. Most of the donors seek this opportunity to find healing and peace after the loss of a loved one. While the



waterfront parks are a popular location, residence enjoy the beautiful parks on the West End as well. The memories of walking, playing, and jogging in a park are the perfect reflection of their loved one. Many animal lovers have also seen this as an opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of their pet. Examples of the plaques are below.



## Partnerships

Supporting the departments goals, PARKnerships has created 24 partnerships including 4 through the Community Matching Fund. By partnering with the organizations below, we have been able to create meaningful experiences for free, serving all communities in the City of Alexandria. Active partners are listed below.



### Connect to the Community

- UpCycle - Offers free after-school programming and use of The Durant Center for youth art classes.
- Literary Council Northern Virginia - English language instruction
- Flyminds - Teaching Robotics through STEAM at William Ramsay and Patrick Henry
- Alexandria Fatherless Coalition - Mentorship Program
- Girl Scouts Troop 2402 - Little Free Libraries, Beverly Park
- Torpedo Factory Artists' Association
- Four Mile Run Park Conservatory Foundation - Four Mile Run Park Kayak Launch
- Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic - Woodbine Tot Lot Renovation



### Invest in the Environment

- Alexandria Country Day School - Monticello Park Improvements
- Alexandria Police Department - Annual Beautification of Charles Hill Park
- Eagle Scout Project, Dan Melchoir IV Troop 1515 - Player Bench Installation and Tree Plantings at Charles Barrett Field
- Eagle Scout Project, Evan Sarchio Troop 135 - Little Free Libraries at Charles Houston and Charles Hill Park
- Eagle Scout, Griffin Burchard Troop 4077 - Fredrick Douglas Cemetery clean-up and historical signage
- RunningBrooke - Volunteer Day and donation towards the Four Mile Run Playground Improvements
- Compost Alex - Build compost collection bins at Ben Brenman and Four Mile Run Park
- Hopkins House - Conversion of a single piece of equipment at Hunter/Miller Playground rated for children ages two to five years of age.
- Holmes Run Community Garden - Garden Improvements



### Improve Well-Being

- West End Farmers Market - Coordination of Farmers Market at Ben Brenman Park
- Alexandria City Public Schools - JROTC Recycled Electric poles installation for fitness training program.
- Eudora Ballet Company - After-School Ballet at William Ramsay Recreation Center
- Pedal Positive - Provides free Adult Learn to Bike, Bike and Basic Riding Skills classes and Bike Workshops at Charles Houston Recreation Center, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center, and Patrick Henry Recreation Center.
- All About Fitness - Instruction of free fitness classes at Charles Houston Recreation Center
- Jonas Neihardt - Parkour Park in Ewald Park

## By the Numbers

	FY17	FY18	FY19
Volunteer Hours	16,833.3	24,121.18	18,130.23
Number of volunteers	377	1,219	1,117
Volunteer Work Value	\$406,355	\$713,987	\$536,654.9
Number of new partnerships	28	14	24
Partnership monetary contributions to park and recreation facility improvements (including community matching fund fundraised dollars)	\$210,000	\$185,118	\$606,319
Benches	1	8	12



Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*) and native grasses in bloom on gravelly slope at the Hammond School Meadow, City of Alexandria, Virginia. Photo by R.H. Simmons

